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## Highlights from TRU's 1995 Spring Catalog!



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Welcome to spring, worst of the seasons. May it charm you by being full of pollen and hot enough for bugs.

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But the season isn't *all* bad. If nothing else, it gave me an excuse to scan several pages from this 1995 Toys "R" Us Spring Catalog, which was so generously donated by my pal, Chris.

Below are my seven favorite items from the catalog, running the gamut from choking monsters to trucks with snakes in them. Yes, 1995 was pretty out there. Remember the end of *Batman Forever*?





## Jibba Jabber & Ms. Jibba Jabber!

(\$9.99 each)

*Jibba Jabber* dolls made silly noises when you shook them. The strange creatures were popular, but some folks took issue with toys that appeared to advocate choking. (Indeed, some of the sounds Jibba Jabber made could only be construed as “playful strangulation.”)

In fact, customer complaints led Ertl to **include a pamphlet with each doll** about Shaken Baby Syndrome, which stated nobody should treat a real person the way they treated Jibba Jabber.

I think if you're at a point where you need to package essays about Shaken Baby Syndrome with your toys, maybe it's time to just ditch the toys. Instead, Ertl made an additional set of Jibba Jabbers dressed like hippies and space aliens. I guess that works too.



## TMNT Mini Mutants Transports & Playsets

(\$4.99 – \$9.99 each)

I never owned these as a kid, I guess because I was only barely a kid when they debuted. Still, I've long been fascinated with the *TMNT* Mini Mutants collection, which was in the vein of *Mighty Max* yet somehow more reminiscent of *Micro Machines*.

This photo used cheap parlor tricks to suggest immodest sizes, but make no mistake, these were *little* toys. The best of them was the **Party Wagon Playset**, which was practically a scale replica of the old **Sewer Playset**.

Mini Mutants toys now sell for aggravating prices, but if you want a lime green compact that hides a Ninja Turtle-themed football field, you really have no other options.





**COUPON SAVINGS #6**

**DOCTOR DREADFUL  
DRINK OR FOOD LAB**

Bottoms up! Set includes everything you need to make horrible looking drinks or food that taste great! Ages 6-up.

**TYCO**

**19.99** OUR PRICE  
**-3.00** COUPON  
**16.99** Each

## Doctor Dreadful Drink Lab & Food Lab!

(\$16.99 each)

I never had any *Doctor Dreadful* kits myself, but I believe they were the eat-what-you-make versions of *Creepy Crawlers*. Toys like this were more fun on paper than in practice, owing to their 50-step processes and every kid's inherent compulsion to half-ass each of them.

Nevertheless, I've spent over two decades wondering if spooning a bootleg Slurpee out of a plastic skull could really be as fun as it looks. I mean, there's no way it isn't, but I tell myself there's a chance because it dulls the pain of regret.



## Street Sharks Hand Sharks!

(\$16.99 each)

In addition to the more famous action figures, *Street Sharks* also had these screwy Hand Sharks. You might remember them from that video of Vin Diesel **earning an honest living** at the 1994 Toy Fair expo.

I love how that little girl put *so much* into making the same face as her Hand Shark. I also love how the length and curvature of her arm was clearly fudged, unless I'm to really believe that her arm expanded like one of those black snakes you light on the 4th of July.





## Tyco Jet Turbo Python!

(\$44.99)

I covered the TV commercial for Tyco's *Python* **back in 2015**, so let me regurgitate old thoughts like a snake with a too-big rat:

A radio-controlled truck with a pop-up water-spitting snake is one hyphen too many for Old Matt, but had I been a little kid when the Python debuted, I would not have shut up until I owned four of them.

The idea was that you could make the snake blast unsuspecting victims with water, but I don't think that was the right gag for a radio-controlled car. If anything, I'm gonna use it to shoot water at my friends' cars, and then those cars would probably malfunction, and then my friends would break all four of my Tyco Pythons. Then Earth explodes.

Regardless, it was a giant cobra popping out of a truck, and that's exactly the type of Elm Street shit that a person like me should always celebrate. A+ on the Tyco Python — remember it the next time it's 1995.



## Super Nintendo Games!

(\$37.99 – \$72.99 each)

73 bucks for *WWF Raw*?! What the hell went on in that game? Could you win money?

Of all the SNES carts shown here, it's *Mortal Kombat II* that grabs me most. I will forever associate the first *Mortal Kombat* with its arcade cabinet, but in my world, *Mortal Kombat II* and the Super Nintendo are still happily married.

The SNES version came out in '93, and I have such fond memories of playing it late at night on our downstairs TV, surrounded by darkness. *Mortal Kombat II* seemed more supernaturally spooky than its predecessor, and if you created the right ambiance, playing it was like creating a horror movie.

I used to fall asleep with the intro screen still on, and then spend the whole night having nightmares about evil boars. (There were no evil boars in *Mortal Kombat II*,



but the intro music was **undeniably evil boarsy**.)



### Super Soaker XP150! (\$19.99)

My last Super Soaker was the **Super Soaker 100**. This one looks a lot like it, albeit with cooler colors and an additional water tank. Notice how *casual* the little boy is about this, as if Super Soaker battles weren't completely serious and generally life-threatening.

In my day, it felt like we were all striving to hurt each other. We'd aim for eyes and open mouths, and if our targets turned sideways, hello eardrums. The literal only

time I can remember using a Super Soaker for something other than killing my friends was when I tried to spell "EAT LEAD TRACY" out of water on the schoolyard wall.

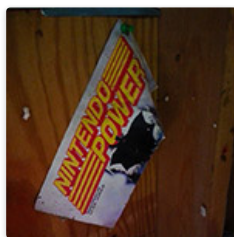
Thank you for reading about some of 1995's best toys, and thanks again to Chris for donating the catalog!



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Posted by **Matt** on 04/05/17

## More on Dino Drac...



In 1991, I turned our shed into a clubhouse.



Toys from the 1993 JCPenney Catalog!



1989 Toys "R" Us Treat Box!



Another Toys "R" Us Treat Box from the '90s!



More Highlights from the '89 Wish Book!



Highlights from the 1986 Sears Wish Book!

94 Comments

Dinosaur Dracula

matsuiny2004 ▾

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**Nostalgic\_nerd** • 9 months ago

I used to have the basketball TMNT play set, as well as a few others (the ones that looked





like actual turtles). I could kick myself for getting rid of them. I especially liked to use the turtle mini figures with my Star Wars micro machines play sets, since size-wise they were surprisingly compatible. Nothing like having the turtles helping the rebels at Echo Base! Good memories...

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Chris Striegel/@ChrisIsHCFest** • 9 months ago

'95 was my first year of college AND the year my parents were going through a divorce AND the year I dealt with my first serious girlfriend becoming a drug addict, so I was sort of out of the loop with toys, so I didn't have much of this. I played the hell out of Donkey Kong Country though. It was one of the few/last SNES games I got and played with any sort of frequency.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Dom Coccaro** • 9 months ago

I had that Doctor Dreadful lab set! I had a fascination with "mad scientist" laboratories, what with the test tubes and the flamboyantly-colored liquids. '95 was an awesome year.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Nina** • 9 months ago

I had this catalog, and I clearly remember the girl with her Street Shark puppet, because even then, as a moderately unpopular girl who leaned more towards action figures than Barbies myself, I was impressed that the catalog featured a GIRL playing with a "boy's toy". It felt legitimizing.

Also, my younger cousin had a Jibba Jabber, and I remember how much effort it took to get the damn thing to make any noise whatsoever. The commercials made it look pretty easy, but you had to throttle that thing pretty hard.

4 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Cameron Floyd** • 9 months ago

Man. Next kid that complains that a modern game is too expensive I'm showing them that flyer for WWF Raw. 73 dollars WITH a coupon? Come on man...

5 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Spectre** ➔ Cameron Floyd • 9 months ago

Damn straight. And then remind them that it was a crapshoot if the game was any good or not. There was no way to tell unless you rented it or a friend had it.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**King Vidiot** • 9 months ago

I still remember the flavor of those Doctor Dreadful "worms" where you eye dropper some kinda liquid into another liquid and it makes disgusting vaguely-fruity worms.

DD was pretty great, but once you do it one time you don't really ever get up the gumption to ask your parents to buy you refills. I mean who wants sugar and weird chemicals when you could be begging for bargain bin video games and Skeleton Warriors figures (also in the bargain bin).

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**AdamX** • 9 months ago

Vince knows you'll likely pay lots of money for anything thus why he has his kids on every ppv.

That or he really needed to pay off the Lex Express some how.

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**circe154** • 9 months ago

So that's what those things were called. There's a photo from Christmas of that year of me and my brother in Power Ranger pajamas, and he's holding a Jibba Jabbar.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Kawaii as Fuck** • 9 months ago

Ah, the 90s, the good old days.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Graham** • 9 months ago

I don't want to say that Doctor Dreadful was overrated (because it was fun as hell), but it wasn't \*quite\* as satisfying as the concept would suggest. Unless you were literally making it in a run-down science lab in a castle in the middle of a thunder storm, something definitely got lost in translation between the commercial and the actual experience of using the product. Plus, the candy was a good two or three tiers below what you'd buy at the store. You know when j-ello starts to get chewy and tough? That was 100% what Doctor Dreadful was.

But man, as a 6 year old, throwing that switch and watching the skull bubble over with barely-edible "candy" was a solid three-second thrill that was worth every inordinate minute of prep that came before it.

3 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Jeff** • 9 months ago

1995 is a year I look fondly back at as I began working part time at Kay Bee toys. Every single person that passed by those damn Jibber Jabbers had to pick them up and shake them. Combine that with the constant yapping of the flipping dogs, weasel balls, penguin chase and all the other toys they had running was enough to drive one MAD!

This was also the year that Kay Bee acquired ten million Hasbro WWF toys and flooded the 3/10 dump bins.

I wish I could go back and buy them!

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Matt Ezero** • 9 months ago

I like the RAW Super Nintendo game, but \$73 is ridiculous. It's funny to me that Kirby's Dream Course has pretty much retained its price, yet you can pick up a loose copy of Raw for around \$5. Anyway, good stuff as always, Matt.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Jeff Lewis** • 9 months ago

"May it charm you by being full of pollen and hot enough for bugs."

Yeah, I was in Boy Scouts, and went camping nearly every month of my childhood. And I far preferred fall and winter camping. It's easy to keep warm just by throwing on another sweatshirt or jacket, or sitting around the campfire. But there's not a damn thing you can do to stop the bugs in warm weather.

"The SNES version came out in '93, and I have such fond memories of playing it late at night on our downstairs TV, surrounded by darkness."

My Mortal Kombat memories are similar. My older brothers (7 & 8 years my elders) had gone off to college all the way over in Pittsburgh, but since my dad's family all lived out that way, we'd go visit fairly often, usually staying at my grandparents' house. So, my brothers would bring over the Sega Genesis, set it up on the TV in my grandparents' basement, and we'd spend our nights playing video games. Mortal Kombat and NHL Hockey were the main two games that we played. I can still see the old worn out plaid couch, the second hand vinyl chairs, and the beat up particle board TV cabinet - the type of furniture that wasn't good enough for upstairs, but still a little too good to just throw out.

3 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Lemonyah** • 9 months ago

I had all of those Doctor Dreadful sets! Last year I found a Doctor Dreadful Zombie Lab at Goodwill for like 3 bucks.

4 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



4 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**FlixtheCat** • 9 months ago

73 dollars for WWF Raw on SNES? As if! For that price I can get three used games at Funcholand, with enough left over for some Power Rangers pogs, and a happy meal.

My dad could only afford SS 50's for me and my brother. They still packed a punch, but we'd have to keep going to the open hydrant to refill it.

6 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Smeg** • 9 months ago

Interesting story behind Uniracers: <https://arstechnica.com/gam...>

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**JokersNuts** • 9 months ago

Doctor Dreadful was a big deal for me and my buddies. For some reason we were really into it and would use Doctor Dreadful kits as our Gourmet meal during marathons of Power Rangers, X-Men, and whatever else was on the Fox Kids line up that day.

3 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Joseph Valencia** ➔ JokersNuts • 9 months ago

Bobby's World, Eek! the Cat, The Tick, Spider-Man, Batman: The Animated Series, Animaniacs, Taz-Mania, Carmen Sandiego, Life with Louie, Goosebumps... Jesus, that block was so awesome.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**M. Oleman** • 10 months ago

I hate spring. But the good news is only 4 months till Halloween decor starts to hit the stores.

6 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**tombo** • 10 months ago

I used to always want a toy called Mr Frosty that made Popsicles and slush drinks , but Xmas themed, not horror themed. But my parents would not get it for me, they said I would be bored and it was better just to get popsicles from the shops.

3 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**~SpikelsMine~** ➔ tombo • 9 months ago

Bummer!

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Teddy Ray** • 10 months ago

Toys weren't really on my radar in 1995...I had "outgrown" them because I thought I was "too old" for them. Of course, I have since realized that that was stupid and I'm all about some toys. But no, I wasn't really paying attention to toys when this catalog was released. I DO remember the Jibba Jabbers, for some reason. I don't know if I knew a kid that had one or if maybe I picked one up and played with in a store or what, but I remember them and I remember the noise they made. I'm not even that familiar with most of those SNES games. I had a SNES, but I think I only ever had two games for it: Super Mario World and Final Fight. I'm pretty sure I rented Donkey Kong Country and Mortal Kombat II and I had Tetris and Dr. Mario for the NES, but I never played any of the other games featured in that picture.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**~SpikelsMine~** ➔ Teddy Ray • 9 months ago

Same here, I was "too old" in 95 for toys....although I still collected the Power Rangers movie trading cards...and Breyers model horses. Somehow these were ok.

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Teddy Ray** → ~SpikelsMine~ • 9 months ago

Doesn't it seem so silly to think that we once that we were "too old" for toys? Craziness! Thankfully, I outgrew that idea sometime in my adult years...and I never looked back.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

~SpikelsMine~ → Teddy Ray • 9 months ago

Yes there is something great about being an adult and getting to that point where you don't care about what other people may think! That is a definite perk of getting older!

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Teddy Ray** → ~SpikelsMine~ • 9 months ago

I think people would be a lot happier if they quit trying to put the things that brought them happiness in their youth behind them and continued to embrace them well into adulthood.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

~SpikelsMine~ → Teddy Ray • 9 months ago

Agreed. One of my favorite quotes ever is by Fred Rogers- "the child is in me still, and sometimes not so still." I try to remember that when I'm getting too serious about something.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Teddy Ray** → ~SpikelsMine~ • 9 months ago

I've never heard that before. That's a pretty awesome mantra to live by.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Madra Rua** → ~SpikelsMine~ • 9 months ago

I was still all about Power Rangers at that time. My best friend and I thought we were being smart, because if we wanted to talk about it at school without anyone knowing what exactly we were talking about, we'd say "We're gonna go watch MMPR!" We thought we were being so sneaky and smart, and that no one would be able to figure out what we were talking about thanks to that complicated acronym. Haha, kind of embarrassing to think about how clueless we were then :)

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

~SpikelsMine~ → Madra Rua • 9 months ago

Who was your favorite ranger????? I was always loved Adam the best. Quiet, smart, cute, and kicked ass.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Madra Rua** → ~SpikelsMine~ • 9 months ago

I always had a crush on Tommy, lol. And my best friend and I would always make little videos (on, of course, a ridiculous sized camera) with our action figures, and she'd always 'play' Rocky and I'd 'play' Adam, haha!

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

~SpikelsMine~ → Madra Rua • 9 months ago

Well my favorite episodes were the Green ranger evil story arc! Tommy was a great character....I always wanted his pony tail to go away though...lol. So early 90s!

That's so neat you made videos with your best friend! If we had had a video camera I'm sure my brother and I would have done the same thing! How fun!

came along. New item.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

~SpikelsMine~ ➔ Madra Rua • 9 months ago

Hahaha! That is awesome!!!!

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**tombo** • 10 months ago

my kids have those tiny Max-sized TMNT sets. Their Mum got them from ebay. I LOVED tiny size toys, I was obsessed with the micro machine Star Wars stuff.

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Rydolton** • 10 months ago

I remember at my mother's job a lot of her coworkers had those jibber jabbers on their desk as stress relievers... see they were pretending to strangle the boss!

Anything like doctor dreadful was really just fun dip. How many steps? Naw, just gonna Suck the powder off my finger!

Even as a kid calling what is clearly a Cobra "the python" really bothered me. I'd expect that kind of inconsistency from a \$20 Radio Shack RC car, but not Tyco!

3 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Matt** Mod ➔ Rydolton • 9 months ago

...especially because Cobra is an arguably better name anyway. Musta already been trademarked.

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Rydolton** ➔ Matt • 9 months ago

Probably would have had to pay Stallone licensing fees or something.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**tombo** ➔ Rydolton • 9 months ago

stealing brand names is a disease..

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**LBD "Nytetrayn"** • 10 months ago

Heh, I was in the "barely a kid" stage when this stuff was coming out, too. Reeeeeeeally would have liked those Mini Mutants. Pity they apparently cost so much now, as they'd scale really nicely with the Transformers my adult self has no issues with hanging out everywhere.

My cousin had Jibba-Jabber. Kinda fun.

Never owned a Super Soaker until recently, which was mainly for a Splatoon cosplay. I do remember someone bringing a 2000 or 5000 or whatever -- one of the ones that you only got one and a half full-charged shots out of if you pumped it all the way -- on a senior trip thing. The biggest asshole in the school got his hands on it and shot me right in the eyes. I couldn't see clearly for a while... like, sometime on the bus home at the *earliest* a while.

So hey, Super NES games! Raw was so-so, in my view -- it was the one the friend who got me into wrestling was really hyped for, but WrestleMania: The Arcade Game is where I got my footing.

Love DKC, Super Punch-Out!! is cool, and Mortal Kombat II was fun but damn near unbeatable because of the SNK hard bosses on even the easiest difficulty. Everything else is something I wish I'd owned/played.

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Jamie S.** • 10 months ago

I had the Turtle sandbox that's on the cover and the Jibba Jabba! I never actually had one



or those Street Sharks Hand Sharks which is funny because my Dad created Street Sharks!

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Astor Reinhardt** • 10 months ago

If you want creepy...The Krypt in MK:DA...omg...the music in there still creeps me the hell out.

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Joseph Valencia** → Astor Reinhardt • 9 months ago

For me, the sound of those trees moaning in MKII is the worst. One of our local video stores had an MKII cabinet with the sound turned up, and any time the Living Forest came up it was hell for me.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Dr\_Demento** • 10 months ago

Seeing the cover of that reminded me of this:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...>

Lower left corner, girl gets one for Christmas, it takes off... Straight into the fireplace!

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Retrosnacktive** • 10 months ago

I'm somehow offended that the tiny TMNT toys replicate Shredder's weird blue armor. Did grey or silver plastic not exist? (That's a rhetorical question, seeing as the photo is full of silver plastic).

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Madra Rua** • 10 months ago

Oh man, I had those Ninja Turtle playsets! Those beat the hell out of Polly Pocket any day of the week (but she'd still come visit the Turtles on the weekends). I was the perfect age at this time that, even if I was a little too old for a particular type of toy, my nephew was young enough to have some of those cool things, and I could just goof around with his. Although, if I'm really honest, I hung on for dear life to those toy-playing years much longer than I assume the average person did.

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**~SpikelsMine~** → Madra Rua • 10 months ago

Oh thank goodness I'm not the only one that feels this way. I have a brother and a cousin 2 years younger, and another cousin 4 years younger than myself. They let me hold out a little longer than a normal kid would have playing with toys. It seemed like all my friends were in such a rush to grow up, and I knew by 5th grade that life was only going to get more complicated. Maturing and growing is great, but it's good to hang on to just a bit of being a kid.

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Madra Rua** → ~SpikelsMine~ • 10 months ago

I totally understand that feeling! I tried to postpone growing up as long as possible, and even earlier today when a ridiculously 90's song came on the radio at the grocery store, all I could think was "Man, I wish I could go back for a little while".

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**~SpikelsMine~** → Madra Rua • 10 months ago

Yup totally know that feeling!! That's the great thing about music/movies/tv, it's like a really mini time machine of sorts! Even if it's just a two minute trip, it can be really nice. I heard a 311 song today during the "throw back lunch" on the alt. rock station, I was just like "yes!!!"....lol. It was like I was back in art class in high school...pining away for that one gorgeous senior when I was a

freshman. Good times!




1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Freezair** • 10 months ago

Pssst. If you look around at Halloween time, you can still find mini versions of those Doctor Dreadful kits. They usually don't come with the accouterments, but hey, you at least get the "spooky" food. And sometimes they do still have skull-shaped cups! Amazon is also a friend.

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

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